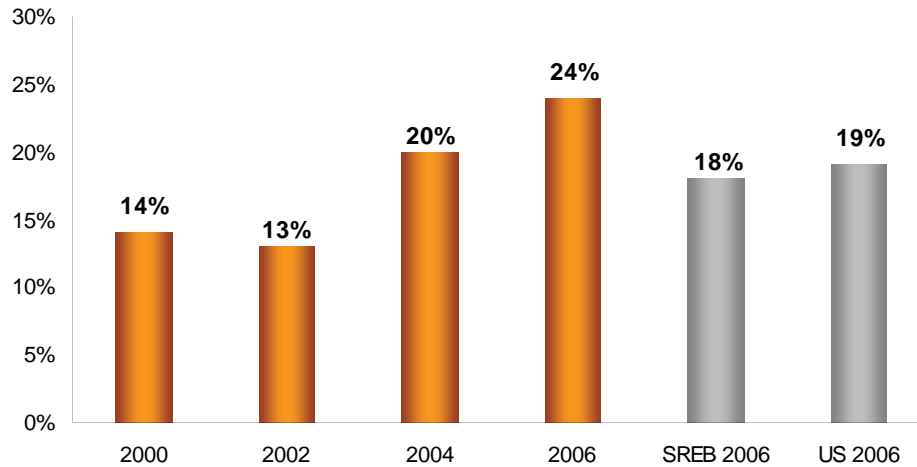




Affordability of college for low-income families

Status: Losing ground

Percent of income needed for low-income families to pay for tuition at the state's lowest-priced institution



Source: *Measuring Up 2006: The State Report Card on Higher Education*

Highlights

- The lowest-income families in Kentucky would need to devote nearly a quarter of their incomes (24%) to cover tuition at the lowest-priced college in the state (KCTCS). This is up from 20% in 2004 and 14% at the beginning of the decade.
- With this increase, college is now less affordable for low-income families in Kentucky than for similar families in other states.

About this measure

This indicator, developed by *Measuring Up*, monitors college affordability for families that are least able to pay. This indicator takes the median family income of the lowest income quintile in Kentucky (\$10,000) and determines what percent is needed to pay the average tuition at the lowest priced institution in the state (KCTCS).

Maintaining low-cost options for college is an important strategy for increasing access to postsecondary education. Aggressively increasing first-time enrollments and transfers at KCTCS is a key strategy for raising Kentucky's educational attainment to the national average by 2020.